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Promotion and protection of human rights

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/170, provides an overview of the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as of 3 August 2008. The report also briefly describes (a) the progress made in implementing standards and guidelines concerning the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system; (b) efforts to disseminate accessible information on the Convention and its optional protocol; and (c) efforts to promote ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

* A/63/150 and Corr.1.

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Introduction

1. The General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto in its resolution 61/106 on 13 December 2006. In its resolution 62/170, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system and to submit to it at its sixty-third session a report on progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

I. Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto

2. The Convention and optional protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008. Since the opening for signature of the Convention and optional protocol on 30 March 2007, 129 States and one regional integration organization (the European Community) have signed the Convention and 29 States have ratified it. Seventy-two States have signed and 18 States have ratified the optional protocol. The lists of signatories and ratifications accession are provided in the annex. Reservations were made by El Salvador, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico and Poland, and declarations were made by Egypt, Malta, the Netherlands and Belgium at the time of signature.[1]

II. Action taken with regard to the standards and guidelines concerning accessibility

3. In follow-up to resolution 62/170, three priority areas for the development of standards and guidelines concerning accessibility have been identified: information, human resources and physical facilities.

A. Information

4. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been promoting accessible communication and information and the use of existing standards and guidelines, as well as the development of additional guidelines, in collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system.

5. The Assembly recognized the strategic importance of information and communications technology (ICT) in its resolution 62/283. The Organization-wide agreement on the future direction of ICT is discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on investing in information communications technology (A/62/793 and Corr.1). It is envisaged that the overall strategic direction and policy framework for information and communications technology will ensure Secretariat-wide compliance with accessibility requirements, including those of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). This is in line

[1] The text of the reservations and declarations are available at www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=475.

with the efforts outlined in the ICT strategy for the United Nations Secretariat to improve accessibility of information across all strategic programme areas.

6. Accessible systems are in development. Galaxy and the United Nations Official Documents System (ODS) will be replaced by Talent Management and Enterprise Content Management, which comply with the relevant accessibility standards.

7. The Department of Public Information continues to improve the accessibility of United Nations websites, in line with W3C Web accessibility standards, which are the only standards with worldwide recognition at the present time. An increasing number of United Nations system websites include several features designed to improve accessibility. The Department of Public Information has created a new, accessible website for the secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: www.un.org/disabilities. The Department of Public Information is currently finalizing Web accessibility guidelines for United Nations system websites. The implementation of the W3C guidelines benefits users with temporary or long-term disabilities, including those who are blind or have low vision, limited mobility or hearing disabilities, and those who require adjustments because of characteristics associated with ageing.

8. All new web pages created by the Department of Public Information, which is the manager of the United Nations website, already comply with web accessibility guidelines drawn up by the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative. More information from the Department of Public Information on efforts to make United Nations system websites accessible can be found at www.un.org/webaccessibility. The Department of Public Information has also developed pilot training programmes for staff responsible for website creation.

9. Other measures to improve accessibility have been undertaken throughout the United Nations system. The Department of Management has installed desktop outlets for laptop computers in Conference Rooms 1 to 8 at United Nations Headquarters and plans to install assistive listening devices and to provide materials in large print and Braille, and audio recordings. The Division for the Advancement of Women within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is in the process of implementing the web accessibility guidelines drawn up by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) on WomenWatch, the Division's electronic gateway. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held a consultative meeting with organizations of persons with disabilities at which options for improving ESCAP web accessibility were discussed.

10. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is exploring options to improve access to information for persons with disabilities. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently initiated a study to improve the accessibility of its website. The World Health Organization (WHO) website has been audited for accessibility and improvements have been made in line with best practice guidelines, such as the W3C standards. These improvements include the use of descriptive alternative text, the addition and use of meaningful link texts, code changes (header tags, content groupings) so that the HTML is rendering correctly for screen readers, and transcripts of podcasts to improve access for hearing impaired users.

B. Human resources

11. Despite the fact that the current United Nations human resources policy does not contain discriminatory references, the United Nations system employs a very limited number of persons with disabilities. Recent efforts to remedy that situation have focused on the recruitment and retention of staff with disabilities and on their training. To improve the recruitment of persons with disabilities by the various entities of the United Nations system, it is necessary to assess the implications of a legal and medical nature, including insurance and pension issues, as well as the necessary budgeting and modifications to staff rules and regulations.

12. The recently established Working Group on Disability of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Human Resources Network is developing a common policy statement on the employment of persons with disabilities in the United Nations workplace.

13. The policy statement will reaffirm the commitment of the United Nations system to ensuring equal opportunities and equal rights for qualified applicants for employment and staff with disabilities. It also reaffirms the aim of the Organization to create an environment that enables persons with disabilities to work effectively. To that end, each United Nations entity is requested, in collaboration with staff with disabilities and their representatives, to develop and integrate a policy on the employment of persons with disabilities into its human resources management strategy, with links to staff welfare and safe and healthy workplace initiatives.

14. Areas to be covered by the new policies include protection of rights, non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation, positive action in recruitment, selection and appointment, awareness-raising and the needs of staff and their family members with disabilities.

15. Efforts to implement standards and guidelines for the accessibility of human resources and training services of the United Nations system have included the following.

16. On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2007, under the theme "Decent work", the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made six commitments to improve the right to decent work for staff with disabilities and to introduce standards to ensure an accessible workplace for such staff. The High Commissioner committed her Office (OHCHR) to: (a) developing and launching, before 3 December 2008, an OHCHR "statement of intent" on the employment of staff with disabilities that would address recruitment, career development and work/life issues, including the situation of staff with children with disabilities; (b) develop and implement standards on accessibility in the physical environment, as well as for technology used by OHCHR; (c) develop a programme of sensitization for OHCHR staff in relation to disabilities in the workplace; (d) establish an internship programme in 2008 for interns with disabilities; (e) consult with and involve relevant organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of these commitments; and (f) review these commitments after five years.

17. UNDP established a working group on disability with a strong focus on accessibility and human resources, and in particular on the proactive recruitment of persons with disabilities. At the country office level, UNDP Venezuela initiated a

project to promote employment opportunities within the United Nations system for persons with disabilities.

18. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) adopted a number of initiatives to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including staff or refugees, in the areas of policy, accountability, capacity-building and attitudinal change, partnership, early identification and referral systems. UNHCR has reported on the need to increase the overall capacity and improve the skills of staff with a view to their working more effectively with persons with disabilities, and to changing negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

19. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) initiated an in-house dialogue for a more systematic consideration of disability issues in relation to workplace diversity, human resources policy, physical accommodation, services and equipment.

20. The World Health Organization (WHO) developed a statement on ensuring decent work within the organization for qualified individuals, regardless of their disabilities or other diversity factors, such as race, sex, creed, national origin or age.

21. Within the United Nations Secretariat, in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of Military Affairs and the Police Division are considering efforts to encourage troop- and police-contributing countries to develop policies for the inclusion of uniformed personnel with disabilities. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations also reported on the need, both at Headquarters and at the mission level, for awareness-raising and training on the Convention, and for the development of improved human resources policies that respect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

C. Physical facilities

22. The United Nations system does not have universal standards of accessibility, but seeks to adhere to the standards and requirements of the host country. At its Headquarters, the United Nations seeks to adhere to regulations in accordance with United States federal legislation and applicable New York City building codes. Similarly, in Geneva and Vienna, for example, the facilities were constructed in compliance with the regulations of the respective host country. The practice is that renovation and construction plans are voluntarily provided to host country officials for their review and comment, and that all activities are conducted in compliance with host country regulations.

23. At United Nations Headquarters, since 1990, host country regulations have been taken into consideration in all architectural designs relating to repairs and the installation of ramps, restrooms and drinking fountains, as well as accessibility to entrances and means of egress throughout the Secretariat, General Assembly and Conference Buildings.

24. At Headquarters, the responsibility for the physical facilities lies with the Department of Management. In addition, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been working closely with the Department of Management, including the capital master plan team, to ensure that the facilities, including those concerned by the capital master plan, are in line with the spirit and letter of the Convention.

25. One of the main goals of the capital master plan is to create a modern facility that is fully accessible, including outside spaces. Virtually all the areas that guests and office staff occupy will be fully accessible and all aspects of the renovation of Headquarters will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and applicable host city building code requirements. The Office of the Capital Master Plan and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have cooperated in meeting with Americans with Disabilities Act and universal design experts to ensure that the buildings and complex will be accessible.

26. Although they are not addressed in the capital master plan, the Department of Management is also looking into ways to accommodate other potential needs of persons with disabilities. The Department of Management is planning to install assistive listening devices, large print materials in Braille and audio recordings for persons with disabilities.

27. Participants in the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Network of Facilities Managers discussed further improvement of the United Nations facilities with regard to accessibility in March 2008. The participants represented 23 office entities, including the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions, funds, specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and other international organizations. In terms of United Nations common premises in the field, accessibility is being discussed by the Working Group on Common Premises of the United Nations Development Group. All guidance issued relating to the country offices has been agency-specific. The agencies have yet to jointly establish standard specifications for United Nations premises. When construction or renovation takes place, the agencies rely on the host country laws and building codes, incorporating specific needs of the United Nations. In the context of a project currently under evaluation by the Working Group on Common Premises, the need for guidance on disability access has been raised by only one United Nations country team.

28. Since 2004, at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Facility Management Unit has been conducting an annual accessibility audit on the basis of the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a result, slope additions were made to the United Nations Conference Centre and 18 additional accessible bathrooms were constructed.

29. To follow up on the High Commissioner's statement of commitment to decent work for staff with disabilities, OHCHR completed an accessibility audit of its premises, facilities and technology in June 2008. Two reports undertaken by and involving persons with disabilities have reviewed OHCHR from the perspective of persons with physical and sensory disabilities and recommendations have been submitted to the management for review and follow-up.

30. UNDP has requested a feasibility study of alternatives for improving accessibility to UNDP facilities. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has made its guide *Making ILO Offices accessible to Persons with Disabilities* available throughout the organization to guide renovations, layout and the choice of venues for events, among other considerations. The new global headquarters in Geneva of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was constructed to be fully compliant with Swiss laws on access for persons with disabilities.

31. At UNHCR, a working group has been established to identify and analyse measures to improve accessibility. Some offices have already made improvements in

terms of accessibility: for example, at the country office in Guinea the building has been modified to include an accessible ramp and wider doors, and the reception and interview rooms have been moved to the ground floor. Such measures also address the needs of displaced persons with disabilities who need to access UNHCR premises for consultations and interviews.

32. UNDP is conducting a feasibility study to improve accessibility to its facilities. Several UNDP country offices are improving the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system. In Bhutan, the new United Nations house will be made barrier-free to ensure accessibility. In Maldives, in consultation with other United Nations agencies, the country office premises are being redesigned to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

33. At UNICEF, efforts have been made to implement the standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system. UNICEF has initiated an in-house dialogue for a more systematic consideration of disability issues in relation to workplace diversity, human resources policy, physical accommodation, services and equipment.

34. WHO ensures accessibility to the main entry points to buildings at its premises in Geneva by installing wheelchair ramps and lifts throughout the buildings as needed; providing dedicated toilet facilities in all buildings; and constructing easily accessible parking spaces. WHO is exploring the possibility of conducting a survey of regional offices' local practices and including the results in the WHO real estate inventory database.

35. The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization called upon member countries to strengthen their efforts to improve the implementation of the recommendations included in resolution 492 (XVI) 10 on "Accessible tourism for all", adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in 2005. These recommendations highlight the need for information on the accessibility of tourism services and facilities and the availability of support services for persons with disabilities in tourist destinations. They also underline the need to prepare and train staff employed by tourism establishments and tourism-related services on special needs of persons with disabilities. Common accessibility requirements in tourism facilities and sites are set out in the recommendations, as well as a description of requirements for persons with disabilities in specific facilities, such as airport terminals, hotels, restaurants, museums and conference halls.

D. Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

36. The Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention was established by CEB in September 2006 as a time-bound group tasked with preparing a system-wide strategy to advance the implementation of the Convention. The group has met twice; the meetings were convened by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OHCHR. Following the first meeting, the group adopted a joint statement of commitment to the Convention, in which its members committed themselves to promoting, protecting and ensuring within the United Nations system the explicit rights and provisions set out in the Convention and, as appropriate, to providing support to the States parties to the Convention. To that end, the members of the group agreed to draft a common strategy and action plan as the basis for coordinated

work within the United Nations system, and to support States as they ratify and implement the Convention. The strategy and action plan will reflect articles 32 and 38 of the Convention in particular. The statement of commitment identifies six areas of focus for the joint strategy and action plan: policies, programmes, capacity-building, research and access to knowledge, accessibility, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the treaty body for the Convention).

III. Activities undertaken in support of the Convention

37. In May 2008, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with Governments and civil society, organized an event to commemorate the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at which the international community reaffirmed its commitment to the advancement of persons with disabilities in a quest for a just and equitable society. At this event, which was opened by a representative of the President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General said that the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol heralded a new dawn in the fight for the well-being of people with disabilities — a struggle rooted in the fundamental principle of universal human rights, and he urged those countries that had not yet done so to consider ratification of the Convention and its optional protocol at the earliest possible date. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs focused on the two dimensions of the Convention — human rights and development — and on the Convention's relevance to efforts to achieve a just and equitable society for all. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights emphasized the importance of a coordinated response to ensure that the Convention process would bring real change and not merely maintain the status quo.

38. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is working closely with the International Paralympic Committee and the China Disabled Persons' Federation to promote the Convention at the Paralympic Games in Beijing in September 2008. A high-level representative of the Department will attend the Paralympic Games to highlight the importance of the Convention and the work of the United Nations. Athletes at the Paralympic Games will demonstrate their support of the Convention by signing a "wall of support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

39. The Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development has convened numerous regional and national conferences on disability, raising awareness of the Convention within Governments and within civil society. Throughout the past year, she has emphasized in all her meetings with Government representatives and legislators the importance of promoting and ratifying the Convention, and of harmonizing legislation, action plans and programmes.

40. In its resolution 7/9 of 25 March 2008, the Human Rights Council decided to hold an annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, focusing on key legal measures for the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention. In that resolution, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed the need to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, called upon States to consider

signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol as a matter of priority and encouraged them to raise awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. The Council also encouraged the special procedures, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, all stakeholders in the universal periodic review, and other mechanisms of the Council, as well as the human rights treaty monitoring bodies, to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities in their work. The Council invited the High Commissioner to continue to provide adequate support for the integration of the perspectives of persons with disabilities in its work, encouraged OHCHR to continue to strengthen its partnerships with civil society organizations including organizations of persons with disabilities, and encouraged the High Commissioner to take fully into account the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system. The Council also invited the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to continue cooperating with the Council.

41. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union published *From Exclusion to Equality; Realizing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, a handbook for parliamentarians on the Convention. The editorial review board consisted of parliamentarians, academics and practitioners, many of whom are persons with disabilities. Organizations in many countries have produced unofficial versions in local languages. The handbook is intended to assist parliamentarians and others to develop mechanisms and frameworks for implementing the Convention in practice. It will serve as a useful tool for parliamentarians in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

42. A staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs represents the United Nations system on the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development. The Global Partnership, a broad and inclusive network of organizations, works to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their families. The central focus of the Global Partnership is mainstreaming the goals and objectives of the Convention in social and economic development. In this context, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs contributed to the five-year strategic plan for the Global Partnership for Disability and Development in 2008.

43. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 62/170 to United Nations agencies and organizations to continue to disseminate accessible information, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OHCHR prepared frequently asked questions on the Convention and its optional protocol, as well as on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the related answers, and made them available on their websites.

44. OHCHR sought to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities by promoting the Convention as one of its four media strategies in 2008. The strategy seeks to promote the Convention, using the Web, print and film media, through interviews, promotional materials, personal stories, brochures and posters, with a focus on key events related to the Convention.

45. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is collaborating with an organization called "No Limits Media" on its plans to launch an exhibition of photographs of persons with disabilities portraying positive images of disability.

46. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs participated in and contributed to the following conferences: the 7th World Assembly of Disabled People's International (Republic of Korea, September 2007); an international symposium on "Framing legal and human rights strategies for change: a case study of disability rights in Asia", organized by the University of Washington School of Law (Seattle, United States of America, April 2008); the African Conference on the Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities: a call for action on poverty, discrimination and lack of access, organized by Leonard Cheshire Disability under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa, May 2008); the Japan Association of Parliamentarians/Japan Disability Forum meeting on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Tokyo, June 2008) and "Colombia Inclusiva", organized by the Government of Colombia (Bogotá, November 2007).

47. An expert group meeting on the theme "Making it work: civil society participation in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" was organized in Madrid in November 2007 by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR, the Government of Spain and Fundación ONCE, a non-governmental organization. The objectives of the meeting were: (a) to inform and consult civil society on the future steps of the Convention process, including the implications of civil society participation; (b) to learn lessons from civil society mechanisms that contribute to the implementation of other conventions; and (c) to establish dialogue to ensure effective civil society participation in the future implementation of the Convention. The meeting produced two outcome documents. The first is the Declaration of Madrid (A/62/654, annex), containing recommendations to Member States on priority areas of action to ensure the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention.

48. UNHCR is developing a set of tools for field operations on improving the protection of persons with disabilities, in order to support building the capacity of UNHCR staff, particularly with regard to increasing their knowledge of disability.

49. The United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Mine Action Team routinely advocate for treaty ratification and prepared an advocacy package on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in coordination with the Landmine Survivors Network, to assist States parties, as well as to promote ratification of the Convention. The advocacy package will also raise awareness of the importance of improving the accessibility of the facilities and services at United Nations Headquarters and in field offices.

50. The Department of Management, through the United Nations Postal Administration, issued a postage stamp series to commemorate the entry into force of the Convention.

51. OHCHR country engagement with regard to the Convention has taken place through country offices, as well as through expert advice provided from headquarters. In addition to the country activities reported on in the report to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/61), the following activities are of note.

52. The OHCHR Regional Office in Bangkok organized, jointly with ILO and ESCAP, a commemorative event concerning the Convention. In Gaza, OHCHR,

together with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, organized a seminar on raising awareness of and advocacy for the Convention, to demystify disability. In Guatemala, OHCHR organized two workshops on the Convention. In the Kyrgyz Republic, OHCHR, UNDP and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Academy, in cooperation with the Government and local civil society, organized a conference to promote awareness of the Convention organizations. The OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa participated in an ILO-sponsored subregional meeting on the theme "Disability legislation and decent work for persons with disabilities in Africa", focusing on monitoring by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the implementation of the Convention. In Switzerland, OHCHR attended a meeting of parliamentarians to promote signature and ratification of the Convention. In Timor-Leste, the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section of OHCHR, in coordination with the Military Liaison Group of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, has been monitoring respect for the rights of persons with disabilities in villages. In Uganda, OHCHR is conducting a study to prepare strategies for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. To mark the entry into force of the Convention, OHCHR sent advocacy letters to Governments, non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities calling for speedy ratification of the Convention.

53. An important initiative of civil society is the International Disability Alliance IDA-CRPD Forum. The Forum is a network of civil society organizations. Its purpose is to unify the voice of the disability community and it is based on the experience and expertise of the International Disability Caucus, which brought together organizations of persons with disabilities during the negotiation process of the Convention. The Forum will have a key role in assisting with the effective implementation of the Convention. The Forum is open to all civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels, including organizations of persons with disabilities, in the spirit of the motto "Nothing about us, without us".

54. The following summary of activities relating to the Convention is based on inputs from 36 Governments, including States parties:

(a) Australia, through its Agency for International Development (AusAID), is developing a comprehensive new aid strategy to best meet the needs of persons with disabilities, consistent with the goals and the objectives of the Convention.

(b) China publicizes the Convention and has issued accessible online and Braille editions of the Convention. Government agencies, in collaboration with disability organizations, have conducted numerous studies and research activities.

(c) Finland is harmonizing national legislation with the Convention.

(d) Germany promotes training on the Convention and works, on the basis of the "Paris Principles",[2] with the German Institute for Human Rights and organizations of persons with disabilities.

(e) Mexico promotes activities at the regional level to increase awareness of the Convention.

[2] The Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex).

(f) Morocco promotes the rights of persons with disabilities by developing legislation in line with the Convention.

(g) In line with the Convention and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the development agency of New Zealand is working towards harmonizing the approach to international cooperation to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

(h) Qatar introduced amendments to the articles of its law relating to persons with disabilities, consistent with the goals and the objectives of the Convention.

(i) Saudi Arabia is preparing a comprehensive national record of persons with disabilities and expanding home care services for persons with disabilities.

(j) As European Union Council President, Slovenia organized a European conference on the promotion and implementation of the Convention in European Union member States.

(k) The Sudan adopted the Disabled Persons Act in line with its Constitution and with the relevant regional and international agreements to which the Sudan is a party.

(l) In Thailand, laws and policies concerning the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities have been developed in line with the Convention.

Annex

List of signatories to, ratifications of and accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto as of 3 August 2008

A. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*	*Participant*	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Algeria	30 Mar 2007		Chile	30 Mar 2007	
Andorra	27 Apr 2007		China	30 Mar 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 Mar 2007		Colombia	30 Mar 2007	
Argentina	30 Mar 2007		Comoros	26 Sep 2007	
Armenia	30 Mar 2007		Congo	30 Mar 2007	
Australia	30 Mar 2007		Costa Rica	30 Mar 2007	
Austria	30 Mar 2007		Côte d'Ivoire	7 Jun 2007	
Azerbaijan	9 Jan 2008		Croatia	30 Mar 2007	15 Aug 2007
Bahrain	25 Jun 2007		Cuba	26 Apr 2007	
Bangladesh	9 May 2007	30 Nov 2007	Cyprus	30 Mar 2007	
Barbados	19 Jul 2007		Czech Republic	30 Mar 2007	
Belgium	30 Mar 2007		Denmark	30 Mar 2007	
Benin	8 Feb 2008		Dominica	30 Mar 2007	
Bolivia	13 Aug [illegible]7		Dominican Republic	30 Mar 2007	
Brazil	30 Mar 2007		Ecuador	30 Mar 2007	3 Apr 2008
Brunei Darussalam	18 Dec 2007		Egypt	4 Apr 2007	14 Apr 2008
Bulgaria	27 Sep 2007		El Salvador	30 Mar 2007	14 Dec 2007
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007		Estonia	25 Sep 2007	
Burundi	26 Apr 2007		Ethiopia	30 Mar 2007	
Cambodia	1 Oct 2007		European Community	30 Mar 2007	
Canada	30 Mar 2007		Finland	30 Mar 2007	
Cape Verde	30 Mar 2007		France	30 Mar 2007	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007		Gabon	30 Mar 2007	1 Oct 2007

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*	*Participant*	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Germany	30 Mar 2007		Mali	15 May 2007	7 Apr 2008
Ghana	30 Mar 2007		Malta	30 Mar 2007	
Greece	2007		Mauritius	25 Sep 2007	
Guatemala	30 Mar 2007		Mexico	30 Mar 2007	17 Dec 2007
Guinea	16 May 2007	8 Feb 2008	Moldova	30 Mar 2007	
Guyana	11 Apr 2007		Montenegro	27 Sep 2007	
Honduras	30 Mar 2007	14 Apr 2008	Morocco	30 Mar 2007	
Hungary	30 Mar 2007	20 Jul 2007	Mozambique	30 Mar 2007	
Iceland	30 Mar 2007		Namibia	25 Apr 2007	4 Dec 2007
India	30 Mar 2007	1 Oct 2007	Nepal	3 Jan 2008	
Indonesia	30 Mar 2007		Netherlands	30 Mar 2007	
Ireland	30 Mar 2007		New Zealand	30 Mar 2007	
Israel	30 Mar 2007		Nicaragua	30 Mar 2007	7 Dec 2007
Italy	30 Mar 2007		Niger	30 Mar 2007	24 Jun 2008
Jamaica	30 Mar 2007		Nigeria	30 Mar 2007	
Japan	28 Sep 2007		Norway	30 Mar 2007	
Jordan	30 Mar 2007	31 Mar 2008	Oman	17 Mar 2008	
Kenya	30 Mar 2007		Panama	30 Mar 2007	7 Aug 2007
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15 Jan 2008		Paraguay	30 Mar 2007	
Lebanon	14 Jun 2007		Peru	30 Mar 2007	30 Jan 2008
Liberia	30 Mar 2007		Philippines	25 Sep 2007	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1 May 2008		Poland	30 Mar 2007	
Lithuania	30 Mar 2007		Portugal	30 Mar 2007	
Luxembourg	30 Mar 2007		Qatar	9 Jul 2007	
Madagascar	25 Sep 2007		Republic of Korea	30 Mar 2007	
Malawi	27 Sep 2007		Romania	26 Sep 2007	
Malaysia	8 Apr 2008		San Marino	30 Mar 2007	22 Feb 2008
Maldives	2 Oct 2007		Saudi Arabia		24 Jun 2008[a]

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*	*Participant*	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Senegal	25 Apr 2007		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30 Mar 2007	
Serbia	17 Dec 2007		Tonga	15 Nov 2007	
Seychelles	30 Mar 2007		Trinidad and Tobago	27 Sep 2007	
Sierra Leone	30 Mar 2007		Tunisia	30 Mar 2007	2 Apr 2008
Slovakia	26 Sep 2007		Turkey	30 Mar 2007	
Slovenia	30 Mar 2007	24 Apr 2008	Uganda	30 Mar 2007	
South Africa	30 Mar 2007	30 Nov 2007	United Arab Emirates	8 Feb 2008	
Spain	30 Mar 2007	3 Dec 2007	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 Mar 2007	
Sri Lanka	30 Mar 2007		United Republic of Tanzania	30 Mar 2007	
Sudan	30 Mar 2007		Uruguay	3 Apr 2007	
Suriname	30 Mar 2007		Vanuatu	17 May 2007	
Swaziland	25 Sep 2007		Viet Nam	22 Oct 2007	
Sweden	30 Mar 2007		Yemen	30 Mar 2007	
Syrian Arab Republic	30 Mar 2007		Zambia	9 May 2008	
Thailand	30 Mar 2007				

[a] Accession.

B. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*	*Participant*	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Algeria	30 Mar 2007		Finland	30 Mar 2007	
Andorra	27 Apr 2007		Gabon	25 Sep 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 Mar 2007		Germany	30 Mar 2007	
Argentina	30 Mar 2007		Ghana	30 Mar 2007	
Armenia	30 Mar 2007		Guatemala	30 Mar 2007	
Austria	30 Mar 2007		Guinea	31 Aug 2007	8 Feb 2008
Azerbaijan	9 Jan 2008		Honduras	23 Aug 2007	
Bangladesh		12 May 2008[a]	Hungary	30 Mar 2007	20 Jul 2007
Belgium	30 Mar 2007		Iceland	30 Mar 2007	
Benin	8 Feb 2008		Italy	30 Mar 2007	
Bolivia	13 Aug 2007		Jamaica	30 Mar 2007	
Brazil	30 Mar 2007		Jordan	30 Mar 2007	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007		Lebanon	14 Jun 2007	
Burundi	26 Apr 2007		Liberia	30 Mar 2007	
Cambodia	1 Oct 2007		Lithuania	30 Mar 2007	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007		Luxembourg	30 Mar 2007	
Chile	30 Mar 2007		Madagascar	25 Sep 2007	
Congo	30 Mar 2007		Mali	15 May 2007	7 Apr 2008
Costa Rica	30 Mar 2007		Malta	30 Mar 2007	
Côte d'Ivoire	7 Jun 2007		Mauritius	25 Sep 2007	
Croatia	30 Mar 2007	15 Aug 2007	Mexico	30 Mar 2007	17 Dec 2007
Cyprus	30 Mar 2007		Montenegro	27 Sep 2007	
Czech Republic	30 Mar 2007		Namibia	25 Apr 2007	4 Dec 2007
Dominican Republic	30 Mar 2007		Nepal	3 Jan 2008	
Ecuador	30 Mar 2007	3 Apr 2008	Niger	2 Aug 2007	24 Jun 2008
El Salvador	30 Mar 2007	14 Dec 2007	Nigeria	30 Mar 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*	*Participant*	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Panama	30 Mar 2007	7 Aug 2007	Slovakia	26 Sep 2007	
Paraguay	30 Mar 2007		Slovenia	30 Mar 2007	24 Apr 2008
Peru	30 Mar 2007	30 Jan 2008	South Africa	30 Mar 2007	30 Nov 2007
Portugal	30 Mar 2007		Spain	30 Mar 2007	3 Dec 2007
Qatar	9 Jul 2007		Swaziland	25 Sep 2007	
San Marino	30 Mar 2007	22 Feb 2008	Sweden	30 Mar 2007	
Saudi Arabia		24 Jun 2008[a]	Tunisia	30 Mar 2007	2 Apr 2008
Senegal	25 Apr 2007		Uganda	30 Mar 2007	
Serbia	17 Dec 2007		United Arab Emirates	12 Feb 2008	
Seychelles	30 Mar 2007		Yemen	11 Apr 2007	
Sierra Leone	30 Mar 2007				

[a] Accession.